



2016 National Awards

Barbara Thoman Curtis Award

For significant contributions to nursing practice and health policy through political and legislative activity.

Patricia Ford-Roegner, MSW, BSN, RN, ACSW, FAAN ANA Member

Pat Ford-Roegner has spent more than 30 years advocating for a national health policy that is more inclusive of women and minorities, as well as more patient-centered and consumer-friendly.

She began her career as a staff nurse at the American Oncological Hospital in Philadelphia, PA, followed by positions as a nursing instructor at the Delaware School of Nursing in Newark and associate director of the Northeast Community Mental Health Center in Philadelphia.

Highlights of her career in government affairs include her role as director of governmental and public affairs at the American Nurses Association from 1981 to 1990, where she implemented a successful grassroots legislative campaign involving a network of nurses to elect members of Congress who were committed to improving health care and taking action on ANA's Nurses Strategic Action Team (N-STAT).

Appointed by President Clinton, Ford-Roegner served from 1993 to 1999 as the Atlanta regional director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, one of only a few nurses to hold a presidential appointment. She oversaw eight states with 50 million residents and was the first to implement the Children's Health Initiative Program in all eight states. She was also appointed by the White House to co-lead the Health Professionals Council's work on health care reform.

After her presidential appointment, Ford-Roegner served as the CEO of the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC), and then as executive director of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) from 2004 to 2006. She is credited with rebuilding AIMBE's membership services and donor programs. As the CEO of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) from 2006 to 2010, she established the first AAN national policy office in Washington, DC, and led a campaign to break the glass ceiling for nurse leaders so their science-based, patient-centered innovations could be used to transform the health care system.

Currently, Ford-Roegner works as a senior health policy advisor with the public affairs firm Amplify Public Affairs, LLC, and through her own independent practice, PFR Strategic Affairs, specializing in health policy practice, women's issues and leadership development. She continues to advocate for the future of nursing by working with a broad array of health care organizations and policymakers to transform health care.

